Our Ref: 01.08.06.15/511C
UKOP Doc Ref:1317709

Offshore Petroleum Regulator
for Environment & Decommissioning

PERENCO UK LIMITED
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LONDON
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Registered No.: 04653066

Date: 21st December 2023

Department for Energy Security &
Net Zero

AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]
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www.gov.uk/desnz
opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

Dear Sir / Madam

THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020
Ravenspurn North Production [pt.of RAVENSPURN]

A screening direction for the project detailed in your application, reference PR/2439/0 (Version 2), dated 21st December 2023 has been issued under regulation 6 of the above Regulations. The screening direction notice, and any relevant conditions and comments are attached. A copy of this screening direction will be forwarded to the application consultees, the Oil and Gas Authority and published on the gov.uk website.

If you have any queries in relation to this screening direction or the attachments, please do not hesitate to contact [redacted] on [redacted] or email the Environmental Management Team at opred@energysecurity.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully

Signature Not Verified
Digitally signed by Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
Date: 2023.12.21 13:52:46 GMT
Reason: On behalf of the Secretary of State
Location: Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning

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THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCREENING DIRECTION CONFIRMING THAT AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT IS NOT REQUIRED

Ravenspurn North Production [pt.of RAVENSPURN]

PR/2439/0 (Version 2)

Whereas PERENCO UK LIMITED has made an application dated 21st December 2023, under The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020, and whereas the Secretary of State has considered the application and is satisfied that the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment; in exercise of the powers available under regulation 6, the Secretary of State hereby directs that the application for consent in respect of the project need not be accompanied by an Environmental Impact Assessment, provided that the project is carried out as described in the application for the screening direction and in accordance with the conditions specified in the attached schedule.

In giving a screening direction under regulation 6 of the above Regulations, the Secretary of State accordingly gives agreement to the Oil and Gas Authority to the grant of consent for the project as detailed in the application, PCON/6871/0 (Version 2)

Effective Date: 21st December 2023

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THE OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, UNLOADING AND STORAGE (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) REGULATIONS 2020

SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION CONDITIONS

The grant of this screening direction is conditional upon the screening direction holder complying with the following conditions.

1 Screening direction validity

This screening direction shall be valid from 1 January 2024.

2 Change to production level(s)

The holder of the screening direction shall ensure that the change in the level(s) of production do not exceed the amended level(s) detailed in the application for the screening direction, and in the application for consent relating to the approval for the getting of petroleum issued under the relevant production licence Model Clause.

3 Prevention of pollution

The holder of the screening direction must ensure that appropriate measures are taken to minimise discharges, emissions and waste, in particular through the appropriate use of technology; and to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent incidents affecting the environment or, where they occur, to limit their consequences in relation to the environment.

4 Inspections

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient for an inspector appointed by the Secretary of State to investigate whether the conditions of the screening direction are being complied with, the holder of the screening direction shall afford the inspector with such facilities and assistance as the inspector considers necessary to exercise the powers conferred by the regulations. The holder of the screening direction shall additionally ensure that copies (electronic or paper) of the screening direction and any other relevant documents are available for inspection by the inspector at:

a) the premises of the holder of the screening direction; and
b) the facilities undertaking the project covered by the screening direction.

5 Check monitoring

Should the Department consider it necessary or expedient to undertake an independent monitoring programme to assess the impact of the project covered by the screening direction, the screening direction holder shall afford the Department

with such facilities and assistance as the Department considers necessary to undertake the work.

6 Atmospheric emissions returns

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall report all relevant atmospheric emissions, such as combustion emissions, using the appropriate Environmental Emissions Monitoring System (EEMS) reporting forms.

7 Unauthorised deposits

Following completion of the project covered by the screening direction, the holder of the screening direction shall recover any materials accidentally or temporarily deposited on the seabed, such as debris, temporary containers, structures or deposits, or scientific instruments, and shall return the materials to land. If it is not possible to recover any of these deposits, full details of the materials remaining on the seabed must be reported to the Department in accordance with the requirements of Petroleum Operations Notice No.2 (PON2).

8 Screening direction variation

In the event that the holder of the screening direction proposes changes to any of the particulars detailed in the application for a screening direction, the holder must notify the Department immediately and submit an application for a post screening direction amendment. The post screening direction must be in place prior to the amended proposals taking effect.

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COMMENTS ON THE APPLICATION FOR SCREENING DIRECTION

Section 1

The attention of screening direction holders is drawn to the following provisions regarding The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2020.

1) You are deemed to have satisfied yourself that there are no barriers, legal or otherwise, to the carrying out of the project covered by the screening direction. The issue of a screening direction does not absolve the screening direction holder from obtaining such authorisations, consents etc that may be required under any other legislation.

2) The Department would draw your attention to the following comments:

No comments

3) All communications relating to the screening direction should be addressed to:

opred@energysecurity.gov.uk

or

Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment & Decommissioning
Department for Energy Security & Net Zero
AB1 Building
Crimon Place
Aberdeen
AB10 1BJ

Tel [redacted]

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SCHEDULE OF SCREENING DIRECTION DECISION REASONS

The Secretary of State has decided that, based on the information provided, the project is not likely to have a significant effect on the environment. The main reasons for this decision are:

1) Decision reasons

The following provides a summary of the assessment undertaken to determine whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required for this project, summarises the information considered, the potential impacts and sets out the main reasons for the decision made. In considering whether an Environmental Impact Assessment is required or not, the following have been taken into account:

a) the information provided by the developer;
b) the matters listed in Schedule 5 of The Offshore Oil and Gas Exploration, Production, Unloading and Storage (Environmental Impact Regulations 2020) (the Regulations);
c) the results of any preliminary verifications or assessments of the effects on the environment of the project; and
d) any conditions that the Secretary of State may attach to the agreement to the grant of consent.

Characteristics of the project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 1(a) to (g) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the characteristics of the project include the following:-

Summary of the project

Increase in oil and gas production at the Ravenspurn North field outlined in the NSTA application PCON/6871/0 (Version 2) for oil and gas production in years 2024 to 2027.

Description of the project

This project consists of an increase in oil production of less than 500 tonnes per day and gas production of less than 500,000 cubic meters per day at the Ravenspurn North field, due to well interventions undertaken in 2023 on the ST-3 platform wells. These interventions included cleanout and velocity string installation on wells D02, D03, D06, D07, D08, D13 and D14 which removed well blockages. Side-tracks were also drilled on the D15 and D16 wells to access new gas accumulations, in the western part of the Ravenspurn North D09 block and the north-western part of the Ravenspurn North D10 block, respectively.

No cumulative impacts are expected to occur with any other existing or approved projects.

There is no change to the assessment of a major accident. The Developer has control measures in place to reduce the risk of a major accident occurring and there is no potential for an MEI related to any Major Accident.

It is not considered to be likely that the project will be affected by natural disasters. There is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

Location of the project

Having regard, in particular, to the matters identified at paragraphs 2(a) to (c) of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the environmental sensitivity of geographical areas likely to be affected by the project has been considered as follows:-

The Ravenspurn North field is in UKCS Blocks 43/26, 42/30 of the Southern North Sea. The proposed project is located 77 km northeast of the nearest UK landfall, and 115 km to the west of the UK/Netherlands median line. The water depth at Ravenspurn North is 43 m.

Ravenspurn North normally attended Central Complex (RNCC) is in Block 43/26 and two normally unattended installations (NUIs), ST-2 in Block 43/26 and ST-3 in Block 42/30 are tied back to the RNCC. The RNCC comprises the Central Production Platform (CPP) and a bridge-linked Wellhead Tower (WT-1). The Johnston field is situated in Block 43/27 and is also tied back to the RNCC.

Wet gas from Ravenspurn North and Johnston passes to the Cleeton Development, also operated by PUK, via pipeline (PL669) from the RNCC. At Cleeton, the Ravenspurn North and Johnston gas is commingled with production from Cleeton and associated tie-backs and is exported onshore via pipeline (PL447).

Seabed sediments in the vicinity of the Ravenspurn North comprise Holocene sand and slightly gravelly sand. EUNIS habitat Deep Circalittoral Sand is predicted to be present in the proposed project area.

The proposed operations will coincide with the spawning and/or nursery of fish species. Species that have been identified as spawning in the area include cod, lemon sole, plaice, and sandeels. It is also an area for year-round nursery grounds for anglerfish, blue whiting, cod, herring, horse mackerel, lemon sole, mackerel, sandeels, sprat, spurdog, and whiting.

Seabirds are considered particularly vulnerable to an oil spill in Block 42/30. Ravenspurn production operations will take place year round, within which time sensitivities to oil will be very high from January to April, low in May, and high to very high from June to December.

The following cetacean species occur in the proposed project area: Atlantic white-sided dolphin, harbour porpoise, minke whale and white-beaked dolphin.

Harbour porpoise occurs throughout the year at low densities. The other three species occur in low densities between June and October.

Grey and harbour seals occur in the area throughout the year at low densities and at moderate densities in the summer period.

The proposed project area is located within the Southern North Sea SAC and it is designated for harbour porpoise. The Holderness Offshore MCZ is 27 km from the proposed project area, and it is designated for subtidal coarse sediment, subtidal sand, subtidal mixed sediments, Ocean quahog and North Sea glacial tunnel valleys.

The fishing effort in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The shipping density in the proposed project area is considered to be low.

The Ravenspurn South Development is in the same block (42/30). Pipelines associated with the Ravenspurn North and Ravenspurn South Developments and the associated interfield export pipelines to the Cleeton host facility are near the proposed project area. PUK are the Pipeline Operator for all of the pipelines within block 42/30.

No subsea telecommunications cables pass though the block 42/30.

There are no operational offshore wind farms (OWFs) within the immediate vicinity of Block 42/30.

Block 42/30 overlaps the boundary of the Aquifer 5/42 Agreement for Lease (AfL) carbon capture and storage (CCS) area.

The Ravenspurn North Development is located within a Royal Airforce practice and exercise area (PEXA) and danger area and there is a Royal Navy PEXA located to the north of the Ravenspurn Development. However, there are no special conditions in place relating to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) for the siting of any installations with Block 42/30

There are no active licensed dredging areas or dredge disposal areas within the Block 42/30.

There are several charted wrecks located within the Ravenspurn North Development area but none of these wrecks are in the immediate vicinity of the proposed drilling operations.

Given the location of the project, the areas identified at paragraphs 2(c)(i), (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (viii) of Schedule 5 are not likely to be affected by the project.

Type and characteristics of the potential impact

In accordance with paragraph 3 of Schedule 5 to the Regulations, the likely significant effects of the project on the environment have been considered. Potential

effects on the environment from the activities associated with the project were assessed, including impacts arising from atmospheric emissions, seabed disturbance, physical presence, planned discharges and accidental spills. Other than the matters considered further below, there is not likely to be any significant impact of the project on population and human health.

The increase in production at the Ravenspurn North field will not result in any modifications to the existing plant at the Ravenspurn south facilities or the host facility at Cleeton where production is processed and exported.

The increased production may require an increase in energy generation of up to 30kw from the current average load of 750kw, this represents a possible 4% load increase as a worst case. The average fuel gas consumption at RNCC in 2023 was 0.46 million standard cubic feet per day (MMscf/d), the increase in fuel gas will be a maximum of 0.0184 MMscf/d. The diesel consumption will also increase by 4%, which is approximately 1 m3 per month, giving an increase of consumption of 0.04 m3 per day. The relatively small increases in fuel usage will result in an increase in combustion related emissions and greenhouse gases. However, the exposed location will result in rapid dispersion of emissions and there will not be any significant adverse effects on sensitive receptors.

The production increase may require an increase in the amount of gas vented during routine venting. The estimated total venting is approximately 316 kg of gas released per shutdown. There is estimated to be one shutdown per year with an increase in 94 kg of gas vented per shutdown. Given the number of annual shutdowns is one, the total annual increase in vented gas is 94 kg per year.

All releases of greenhouse gases contribute to global warming potential however the contribution made by the increased by fuel usage and venting will not be significant when compared to total emissions from the UK offshore energy sector. Emissions from the production, transport and processing of oil and gas in the UK was estimated at 14.28 million tonnes CO2e in 2022, in total production operations at Ravenspurn N could emit up to 77782.17 tCO2e, accounting for only 0.54% of total UK oil and gas sector GHG emissions. The production increase alone will account for an increase in 501 tCO2e.

There is expected to be an increase in the produced water estimate based on high case gas flowrate increasing from 29.4 m3 per day to 45.2 m3/day, an increase of 15.8 m3 per day. This equates to an additional 5777.6 m3 per year as a result of the production increase. Note:the Ravenspurn North Produced Water discharge rate was 19,740 m3 in 2022. At a maximum oil in water content of 30 mg/l, this equates to a maximum 0.47 kg of additional hydrocarbons per day (173.33 kg per year) being discharged through the Ravenspurn North produced water. These discharges will be controlled via the OPPC permitting regime and there will be no significant impacts from this increase in discharge.

There will be an increase in the use of methanol for hydrate inhibition, this will be the only change to offshore chemical discharges required as a result of the increase to

production. The increased usage of this chemical will be controlled by the offshore chemical (OCR) permitting regime and there will be no significant impacts from any increased discharge.

There are no expected transboundary effects from the operations.

It is considered that the increase in oil and gas production from the Ravenspurn South field is not likely to have a significant impact on other offshore activities or other users of the sea, the seabed, marine life or cetacean species and no cumulative impacts are expected to occur.

Decision

Taking the above considerations into account, the Secretary of State has concluded that the project is not likely to have a significant impact on the environment and that an environmental impact assessment is not required.

2) Mitigation of significant effects

The following are features of the project or measures envisaged that the developer has proposed to avoid or prevent what might otherwise have been significant adverse effects on the environment:

N/A